# CALL for APPLICATIONS
# Participation in advanced doctoral trainings

## Piloting advanced trainings within the ADVALUE project

Skilled academic professionals in academia, private businesses, advisory and other agencies and in research shall contribute to the local and regional achievement of SDG goals with the development of sustainable agricultural value chains. Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education - 'ADVALUE' supports the qualification of doctorates and future academic professionals in agricultural sciences.

During the project time from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026, four topical modules are developed in a joint initiative of the participating East African and European institutions:

### Module 1 – Essential skills in scientific research.

Module 1 highlights scientific work in agricultural and environmental-related sciences. It includes topics such as research design and data management, literature research and the use of AI in scientific writing, scientific and target-group oriented publication, ethics in research and case examples of scientific working methods in emerging areas.

> **The pilot programme is scheduled for: 11-15 August 2025 online part and 18-22 August 2025 face-to-face at Makerere University Kampala, Uganda.**

### Module 2: Transdisciplinary research.

Getting familiar with transdisciplinary research includes: introduction to transdisciplinarity in the field of sustainability research, understanding systems approaches and conceptualising agricultural and food systems as social-ecological system, basics in community-based research, stakeholder involvement, communication, participatory tools for collecting, processing and analysing data.

> **The pilot programme is scheduled for: 17.09.-28.01.2026 ~ weekly online session (with exceptions t.b.c.) on Wednesdays 12:00-14:00 EAT and 8-12 December 2025 face-to-face pilot week at Pwani University Kilifi, Kenya**

### Module 3: Sustainable Rangeland Resource Management.

Sustainably managing these specific socio-economic systems includes insights in: climate change impacts on animal husbandry and rangeland management, value-chain approaches in livestock-sector development, environmental assessment methods for rangeland resources, development and use of ICT in mobile pastoral livestock production, one-health approach.

> **The pilot programme covers: 25-29 Aug., 16 Sep., 14 Oct., 11 Nov., 2 Dec. (t.b.c.) 2025 for online parts (10:12:00 EAT) and 11-16 January 2026 face-to face pilot week at University of Nairobi, Kenya**

### Module 4: Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain Development.

Value chain development concerns many factors and interactions, such as: climate change impacts on agricultural crops and commodities, introduction to value-chain approaches for agricultural biologicals, agricultural market linkages analysis and development, agricultural Value Chain (AVC) financing and governance, AVC project development and implementation cycle, gender mainstreaming in AVC.

> **The pilot programme is: February-May 2026 online lectures (dates t.b.d.) and face-to-face pilot week at 09-13 February 2026 Uganda Christian University Mukono**

All East African partners built up the capacities, expert network and stakeholder contacts to introduce the modules into their PhD programmes for future offers and further intensification of the curricula.

However, the inter-institutional visits for attending the face-to-face trainings are linked to the project phase in 2025/2026 and provide a unique opportunity to participants to be part of the development process and build up their own international contacts and network with fellows. Travels and accommodation for the face-to-face pilot trainings for the selected participants are covered by the ADVALUE project.

The pilots will include online kick-off sessions to introduce the participants to the detailed programme and working methods. Participants can expect interactive sessions besides experts' inputs and talks. They will be invited for contributions and assignments which are tailored to the own research interests. The attendance of the complete programme is documented with a certificate.

## Your applications

Please submit your applications to info@erasmus-advalue.org by **16th May 2025**, as one single pdf document. Include the institutional contact persons into CC (see below). The application shall include

1.  Your motivation letter (1 page)
    - please outline which pilot training you want to attend and why
    - which expertise you already bring in/ what qualifies you to be selected
    - which benefits you expect for yourself and beyond
    - Note: It is possible to apply for more than one module - please indicate your priorities if you consider to apply for more and explain if you would be available for participation if you get selected for one than more pilot
2.  Curriculum Vitae, resumee (1 page)
    - please state current occupation/ degree programme and concentrate on education, experience, other skills and expertise as well as publications (if any) can be added
    - provide a reference and contact email of one supervisor who is recommending your application
3.  Short summary (1 page) of your current research with the following structure
    - project/ research title
    - supervisor
    - research problem
    - methodology and time plan

## Selection

The applications will be evaluated based on motivation, qualification. The strong commitment to attend all the training sessions is a prerequisite. Selection results will be announced until end of May.

## Contact

For further details on the project please inform yourself on https://www.erasmus-advalue.org local coordinators and contact persons are:

- Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda: Dr. Ellen Kayendeke, ellen.kayendeke@mak.ac.ug
- Uganda Christian University, Kampala: Dr. Rosemary Bulyaba, rbulyaba@ucu.ac.ug
- University of Nairobi, Kenya: Prof. Dr. Oliver Wasonga, oliverwasonga@uonbi.ac.ke
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